EMERGENCY SERVICES — STORM RESPONSE

590.   Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Emergency Services:

As the minister knows, a severe storm damaged properties across Perth and the south west, and Carey Park in my electorate was considered to be one of the worst-affected areas. Can the minister inform the house about the efforts of emergency services personnel in responding to this event?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury. I am glad one side of the house has enough interest in emergency services to ask a question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Member for Bunbury, that is a good question.

On Sunday night a fairly severe storm event came through the south west and also impacted on parts of the metropolitan area. Wind speed at the Busselton jetty peaked at 115 kilometres an hour, and in parts of Perth, it reached up to 106 kilometres an hour. The State Emergency Service received 37 calls for assistance in the electorates of the members for Bunbury and Vasse. In the metropolitan area, 22 calls for assistance were received. Over 650 volunteers turned out and assisted people on Sunday evening across the south west and in the metropolitan area. The SES has done a brilliant job. When they are called upon to help people with patching up roofs, removing fallen trees or clearing blocked driveways and roads, the volunteers from the SES can always be relied on to do their bit. I have talked before in this house about Storm Awareness Week, and what people can do to prepare their own properties for storms. We always know that they will come, but we cannot always accurately predict them or, as in this case, accurately predict the force of the winds that come with those storms. Once again I encourage every single person to do their bit and make sure that they do not have unsecured objects lying around their properties that can be picked up in a strong wind and blown through a window, the windscreen of a car or the roof of a house. Although we cannot guarantee anything in a storm, we can all do our bit to make sure that we are as prepared as possible. Lastly, on behalf the members on this side of the house, we appreciate the SES.

Mr M. McGowan: We all do.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: If the member for Girrawheen appreciated the work that emergency services personnel do, she would at least turn up on time when we have a ceremony to recognise them.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, can you please wind this up.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Certainly, Mr Speaker.

Point of Order

Mr M. McGOWAN: Mr Speaker, I just want to draw your attention to the fact that when ministers make highly provocative remarks in the nature of one side of the house not caring about people's houses being damaged, and not caring about SES volunteers, it is going to provoke a response. Perhaps you might take that into account when calling people to order.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister, wind this up, please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. The point is that when we have a ceremony to recognise the contribution of emergency services personnel, at least we turn up on time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kwinana, I call you to order for the first time. I call the member for Cannington for the third time, and the member for West Swan for the first time. If people want to be ejected from the chamber, I will eject them. I also call the Minister for Emergency Services to order for the first time. I take up the attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to bring up a point of order. The fact that the minister mentioned one side of the house does not give members licence to shout from that side of the house. The minister can deal with the answer in any way that he deems fit, and that is the way it works. Being mentioned does not mean that a member can shout out. On the other hand, I want short and concise answers.